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Message Text

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42
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, KATTTASUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF ABD AL-GHANI CABINE
T TO CONSULTATIVE
ASSMEBLY.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL4-GHUNI RECEIVED OVERWHELMING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY ON FEB. 12 FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CABINET AND GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT PARLIMENTARY CEREMONY MORNING OF FEB. 10. POLICY STATEMENT WAS OF CONSIDERABLE QUALITY AND REFLECTED TECHNOCRATIC ORIENTATION OF NEW CABINEDGM MAIN EMPHASIS WAS ON ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL MATTERS, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION PAID TO PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE 117 MEMBER CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OVERWHELMINGLY GAVE ITS SUPPORT TO THE ABD AL-GHANI GOVERNMENT IN A VOTE FEB. 12. 112 MEMBERS SUPPORTED CABINET VERSUS ONLY ONE NEGATIVE VOTE. THERE WERE 4 ABSENTEES. SOLE NEGATIVE VOTE CAST BY RELATIVELY MINOR FORMER ROYALIST AND ARCH CONSERVATIVE.

GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL STATEMENT WAS SHORT AND COMPRISED OF USUAL PLATITUDES, INCLUDING REAFFIRMATION OF YAR'S SUPPORT FOR PLO. KUWAIT, THE UAE, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ONLY
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COUNTRIES MENTIONED BY NAME. PDRY NOT SGSGVSICALLY MENTLBNED,

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AND PRIME MINISTER'S ONLY COMMENT WAS TO REAFFIRM HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE JOINT UNITY COMMITTEES. DESPITE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SAG-YARG RELATIONS, THE UAE AND KUWAIT RECEIVED GREATER PROMINENCE IN THE FAR MORE EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC SECTIONS OF THE REPORT.

3. PRIME MINISTER LAID GREAT STRESS ON NEED TO IMPLEMENT

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS TO INSURE MINIMUM BUDGETARY
DEFICIT AND TO INTRODUCE INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY. HE SUPPORTED PAST GOVERNMENTS EFFORTS TO MINIMIZZK IMPACT OXOQBRLD COMMODITY AND OIL PRICE INCREASES BY FORMAL YARG SUBSIDIZATION AND BY PREARRANGED CONTRACTING FOR ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS. BOTH POLICIES WILL BE CONTINUED.

4. IN DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENTAL AFFAIRS, ABD AL-GHANI NOTED SOME OF THE DIFFICULITIES FACING YEMEN IN IMPLEMENTING 1974-76 DEVELOPMENT PLAN. CHIEFLY, THESE SHORTCOMINGS REVOLVED AROUND ABSENCE OF QUALIFIED TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. GOVERNMENT PLANS TO WORK AT ALLEVIATING THESE SHORTAGES AND
TO CONSOLIDATE NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING PLAN TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER NOTED NEED TO ATTRACT TO YAR QUALIFIED YEMENIS WORKING ABROAD, NO MENTION MADE OF PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON NUMBERS OF YEMENIS CURRENTLY WORKING IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE GULF AND THE U.S.

5. BULK OF POLICY STATEMENT WAS RECITATION OF CURRENT AND ANTI-CIPATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTAL FIELDS INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, WATER RESOURCES, PUBLIC UTILITIES, AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.1
ALTHOUGH SOME U.S. PROJECTS
MENTIONED IN PAYMKKG, NEITHER USG NOR AID MENTIONED BY NAME. ONLY FOREIGN AID DONORS
AO MENTIONED WERE SAUDI ARABIA,
KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, THE UN THE WORLD BANK, VARIOUS ARAB MULTILATERAL AID FUNDS,AND CHINA (PRC) IN CONNECTION WITH THE SANAA-SAADA AND "AMRAN-JAJJA ROAD PROJECTS. PRIME
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MINISTER DID STATE HE HOPED AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITH QUOTE A FRIENDLY STATE UNQUOTE WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF A POULTRY PROJECT.

6. NO MAJOR NEW PROJECTS DISCLOSED IN POLICY STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH

PRIME MINISTER INDICATED THAT SECOND STATE IN SITE SURVEY FOR

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NEW YEMENI PORT WOULD BEGIN NEXT MONTH. PRIME MINISTER ALSO NOTED THAT ABU DHABI WILL SHORTLY BEGIN SURVEY OF AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL OF SAADA GOVERNORATE. NO SPECIFIC MENTION MADE OF FORTHCOMING MULIT-MILLION DOLLAR SAUDI RURAL WATER PPOJECT.
SCOTES

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